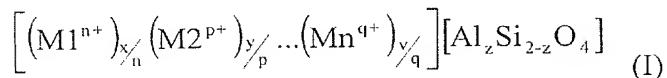


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This claim set is to replace all prior versions.

1. (Original) A zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide for use in surgery and/or therapy.

2. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (I):



wherein M1 and M2 ... Mn are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as N(R₁)_a(R₂)_b⁺ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x ranges from zero to nz,

y ranges from zero to pz, and

v ranges from zero to qz;

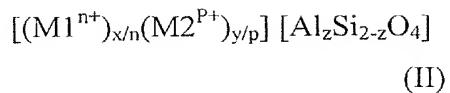
subject to the condition that x/n + y/p + ... + v/q = z; wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n+, p+ and q+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations, and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

3. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 2, wherein M1 and/or M2 are NH₄⁺.

4. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1 having the following general formula (II):



wherein M1 and M2 are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x may range from zero to nz, and

y may range from zero to pz, subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p = z$;

wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework; n+ and p+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

5. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of Ni-LTA(A), Cu-LTA(A), Co-LTA(A), Mn-LTA(A), Fe-LTA, Na-LTA(A) and Cu-PHI.

6. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, in the form of a powder or a monolith.

7. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 6, wherein said monolith is formed by compression of a zeolite powder or by mixing a powdered zeolite with a binder.

8. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 7, wherein the binder is selected from ceramic binders, polymeric binders and other polymers.

39. (New) A zeolite material according to Claim 1, wherein the use thereof in surgery and/or therapy comprises a pharmaceutical preparation

40. (New) A zeolite material according to Claim 1, wherein the use thereof in surgery and/or therapy comprises a medical article.

41. (New) A zeolite material according to Claim 1, wherein the use thereof in surgery and/or therapy comprises a cosmetic or personal hygiene product.